

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSC-05 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4314

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4394

LIMDIS

E. O.. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, ASEAN, XC, MY, US

SUBJ: MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VIEWS ON VICE PRESIDENT'S
VISIT TO THE REGION

1. DURING A MAY 19 CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER RITHAUDDEEN
FOR A TOUR D'HORIZON PRIOR TO MY DEPARTURE FOR CON-
SULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON, I ASKED HIS VIEWS ON THE
SITUATION IN THE REGION IN LIGHT OF VICE PRESIDENT
MONDALE'S VISIT AND THE JUST CONCLUDED HUSSEIN-SUHARTO
MEETING ON LABUAN (OTHER TOPICS DISCUSSED ARE BEING
REPORTED SEPTELS).

2. RITHAUDDEEN REPLIED THAT THE GOM APPRECIATED
THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE AREA AND IN
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PARTICULAR WELCOMED THE VP'S EAST-WEST CENTER
ADDRESS AS SHEDDING FURTHER LIGHT ON CURRENT US
POLICY TOWARD THE REGION. HE COMMENTED THAT THE
GOM ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO MAINTENANCE
OF SUPERPOWER EQUILIBRIUM IN THE AREA, AND THE
US ROLE IS IMPORTANT IN THIS REGARD. NOTWITH-
STANDING THE ASEAN "ZOPFAN" PROPOSAL FOR

WHICH MALAYSIA HAS BEEN THE LEADING PROPONENT,
THE US PRESENCE IN THE PACIFIC REGION HELPS
MAINTAIN THIS EQUILIBRIUM.

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ADDED THAT IT IS NOW
CLEAR THAT THE USG IS NOT NEGLECTING THE AREA
AND WILL CONTINUE TO HELP MAINTAIN SUCH EQUILIBRIUM.
"ON THE WHOLE WE FEEL THE US HAS BECOME MORE
POSITIVE TO THE REGION IN GENERAL AND ASEAN IN
PARTICULAR", RITHAUDDEEN OPINED, NOTING ALSO THAT
JAPAN'S INCREASINGLY FORTHCOMING APPROACH IN THE
ECONOMIC REALM WAS SIMILARLY APPRECIATED.
MILLER

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